

## INTRODUCTION

**W**eights and Measures plays a vital role in our everyday lives. Our economy is intrinsically based on the monetary value placed on goods and services bought, sold and traded daily. That monetary value is ultimately determined by an accurate system of weights and measures. Without this system, our orderly world would turn into chaos.

**T**he Ohio Department of Agriculture is the custodian of the Ohio Primary Standards of Weights and Measures, which are traceable to U.S. Standards of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, Maryland. The official standards of mass, length and volume are defined in systems of measurement which include U.S. customary, metric, apothecary and troy.

**I**n Ohio, the Director of Agriculture is the State Sealer of Weights and Measures. In this capacity, the Director promulgates rules and regulations necessary for the prompt and effective enforcement of Weights and Measures laws. A Deputy State Sealer, Chief of the Division of Weights & Measures, is appointed by the Director and is responsible for the administration and enforcement of all the laws.

**T**he State Weights and Measures Laboratory, which houses the Primary Standards, is located at the Department's laboratory complex in Reynoldsburg. The laboratory provides testing and calibration services for local weights and measures jurisdictions, government agencies (federal, state and local), industry, education and research.

**A**ll 88 Ohio counties have established weights and measures programs included as one of the responsibilities of the County Auditor's Office. Several Ohio cities have also implemented weights and measures programs as part of their city services. The State Weights and Measures Office is obligated to advise, assist and train county and city officials.